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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 130, No. 53

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THE CANTON EAGLE

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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The appointments of two city department directors in Westland will not be renewed by Mayor William Wild effective Jan. 31 when their terms expire.

See page 4.

Clean up continues at tornado site

Clean up and repairs are still under way at the site of a 90 m.p.h. tornado which touched down at an industrial complex on Lilley Road in Canton Township last week.

According to police reports, a call was received at 6:48 p.m. Dec. 23 regarding damage to a business in the area of Lilley and Joy roads. Police and fire crews were immediately dispatched and when they arrived at the scene, they observed damage to several vehicles, at two commercial buildings, an industrial building and several other structures at the site.

> *National Weather Service officials confirmed that this was the first tornado in Michigan since records began in 1950.*

Police said no injuries were reported in the incident and Balfor, an emergency clean-up and repair business, was on site.

The area is adjacent to Mettetal Airport where much of the debris from the damaged buildings landed, including insulation and building materials. The airport was closed due to high winds and the necessary clean up at the site. It is now open as usual, officials said.

Canton officials stressed that the tornado, confirmed by the National Weather Service as an EF-1 tornado, occurred without any warning and that the area was not under a watch when the storm occurred.

The weather service confirmed that the tornado touched down at the site from 6:43 until 6:46 p.m. The tornado had a peak wind of 90 m.p.h. according to the weather service and had a path length of 2 miles with a maximum width of 300 feet.

National Weather Service officials confirmed that this was the first tornado in Michigan since records began in 1950.

So n'ice

Annual Ice Festival begins next week

Next week, when the 34th Annual Plymouth Ice Festival attracts nearly 100,000 visitors to Plymouth, there will be a whole new element to the event.

"The Ice Festival has been looking for some charity involvement over the past few years and we are really excited to have not just one but three charities working with us this year," explained James Geitzen, the festival director.

This year the weekend event, originally designed to bring crowds into town during the cold weeks of January, is planned for Jan. 8, 9 and 10. The traditional attractions which are always huge crowd pleasers are all planned, Geitzen said, along with the charity efforts and the new premier sponsor, Ford Motor Co.

"The Plymouth Ice Festival has a long-standing history of being the largest free ice festival in Michigan and remains dedicated to the art of ice carving," Geitzen said, "and this year the event brings new excitement with new sculptures, the charity events and the premier sponsorship of Ford Motor Co." Ford is sponsoring the "wildly popular" dueling chainsaw competition and has teamed with Gleaners Food Bank for a text-to-donate program. During the event, festival visitors can text the word FORD to 41444 and Ford will match their donation to Gleaners, Geitzen said.

"Locally we have the Plymouth Community United Way doing a winter clothing drive. We also have the local Habitat for Humanity Resale Store accepting donations and scheduling pick-ups during the event this year," he said.

Ford will also sponsor the largest ice sculpture in Kellogg Park and the Dueling Chainsaw competition which always draws a huge crowd, Geitzen said.

"These guys have 15 minutes and a chain saw to create a piece of art. You know it is exciting," he added.

See **Festival,** page 5

Police contract called 'landmark agreement'

Westland police command officers have reached a new contract agreement with the city.

Members of the Westland City Council approved the new agreement with the Westland Lieutenants and Sergeants Association during the Dec. 21 regular meeting.

The new contract affects the 32 command officers including two deputy police chiefs and will be in effect for five years, according to a statement from Mayor William Wild's office.

"With a goal of not only reducing the number of command officers within the police department but also reducing the city's legacy costs, the new contract provides for reduced wages and benefits for new hires and requires all employees to contribute to their pensions and health care," the statement said.

Wild characterized the new contract as a potential "landmark agreement," and said the pact provides the groundwork for a strategic restructuring of Michigan's 10th largest police agency.

The Westland Police Department currently has a total of 134 employees including the 32 command staff members, he said. The goal is to ultimately build the department during the next several years by reducing the command staff to 23 which would put the span of control at one command position for every six employees, Wild said. He said this ratio is in line with accepted best practices for police department management. He said the new plan would be accomplished by eliminating nine sergeant positions through attrition over a 6-year period with the goal of replacing the sergeants with less-costly patrolmen as the savings accumulate.

"The new contract also recognizes the city's need to manage its finances and live within its means. While the new contract does provide for slight increases in paid leave time and wages, the city will realize a reduction

See **Contract,** page 6

Chief calls proposed marijuana shop 'illegal'

Don Howard
Staff Writer

Stephanie Fischer says she's been ready to launch a medical marijuana business in Plymouth Township since last August but can't get answers from township officials regarding an occupancy permit for her site on Joy Road.

The 31-year-old Ann Arbor resident said she approached Township Supervisor Shannon Price for the third time this month when she questioned him at the regular board meeting last week. Fischer said she wanted to inquire when a task force meeting, promised by Price, was taking place and to "get some answers."

She said Price told her at the meeting that he planned to assemble the task force in the next two days and agreed to a personal meeting with her, but told her the task force meeting was not open to the public and she would not be allowed to attend. Price also told her, she said, that there were building code problems with the site Fischer has established for her dispensary.

The closed-door session with Price, township attorney Kevin Bennett and special counsel Timothy S. Wilhelm from Johnson Rosati Schultz and Joppich took place last week at township hall to review Fischer's request. Wilhelm is a land use attorney and serves as the city attorney for South Lyon. Price said Police Lt. Robert Antal, Planning Director Anna Radke and Trustee Chuck Curmi also attended the meeting.

Price said the task force discussed a way to move forward considering the current laws, which he feels, are vague and raise a lot of questions. Price has taken exception to Fischer's plan, which calls for the creation of growing areas for other individuals who are also caregivers. Each grower would have his or her own plants and patients. According to state law each registered caregiver can provide marijuana for up to five patients and grow 12 plans for each patient. Fischer's plan calls for a growing and cultivation area in the rear of the building and a provision center in the front. "There's nothing in the state law that says you can't have 'grow and dispense' together," Fischer said.

"We already told her, 'You

See **Shop,** page 5

Belleville - Romulus

Happy homecoming

Family celebrates return of lost dog

Only Rexxn knows how he spent the past three years, and he is certainly not talking.

Earlier this month, Romulus resident Donna Wreford, found the small Yorkshire Terrier wandering around outside her home. After getting assurances from neighbors that the dog was not theirs, she delivered him to the Romulus Animal Shelter.

Animal shelter staff members evaluated the dog upon intake and, with the utilization of an electronic wand, discovered the canine had a microchip implant that revealed there was owner information on file with the American Kennel Club (AKC). Animal shelter staff members then contacted the AKC who confirmed that the dog was reported missing by a family in Columbus, Ohio more than three years ago.

Representatives from the AKC made contact with the owners, Darrin and Ta-Shina Green who were still living in Columbus, advising them to contact the Romulus Animal Shelter for some good news regarding their lost dog.

The Green family immediately contacted the shelter and learned that their long-lost family pet, Rexxn, had been found about 200 miles north of his home.

Darrin Green immediately drove the three and a half hours from Columbus, arriving at the Animal shelter just prior to closing time the same day he learned where his lost dog had been found. Shelter employees reunited Rexxn with his speechless and teary-eyed owner.

"After three years I never thought I would see my dog again. This truly is the best Christmas ever for our family," said Ta-Shina Green.

"When Rexxn came up missing I was nine months pregnant, and my daughter (now 3-years-old) and Rexxn are already attached to one another as though he had been with us her whole life."

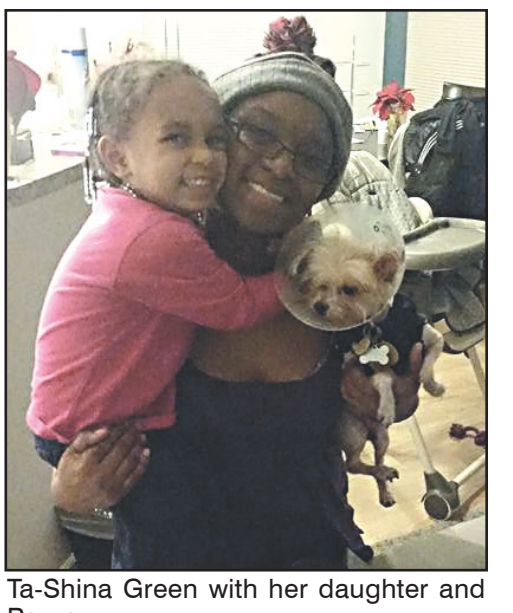
After arriving back home in Columbus, Rexxn was examined by a veterinarian and required multiple surgical incisions to remove the matted and tangled fur that had grown into his skin. According to Green, he is healing fine and spends most of his day cuddled up right next to his family.

"The vet said other than the fur matting and some physical effects of living on the streets, Rexxn was relatively healthy overall and has a great temperament," said Ta-Shina Green.

"With the successful reunion of Rexxn with his family, I'm hoping this story will encourage more pet owners to consider having their pet microchipped with both the identification and tracking devices to ensure all pets make it back home," said Romulus Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff.

For more information about the American Kennel Club registration program, visit www.akcreunite.org.

Darrin Green picks up his long-lost dog, Rexxn, from the Romulus Animal Shelter.



Ta-Shina Green with her daughter and Rexxn.

From the heart

The Van Buren Fire Department recently presented a check for $9,000 to St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor as a result of a number of fundraising efforts by the department to support breast cancer care at the health facility. Celebrating the donation are, from left, firefighters Elizabeth McCormick; LaMar Griffin; Dustin Cox; David McInally; Ryan Smith; Lt. Doug Doty; John Stout, regional director of Oncology Services at St. Joe's; Brandy Marino, regional director of annual giving at St. Joe's; David Brooks, president of St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston hospitals, and firefighters David Brouillette; Matt Jovanelly; Lacey Lo Marcotte and Aaron Ladach at the Van Buren Fire Station.

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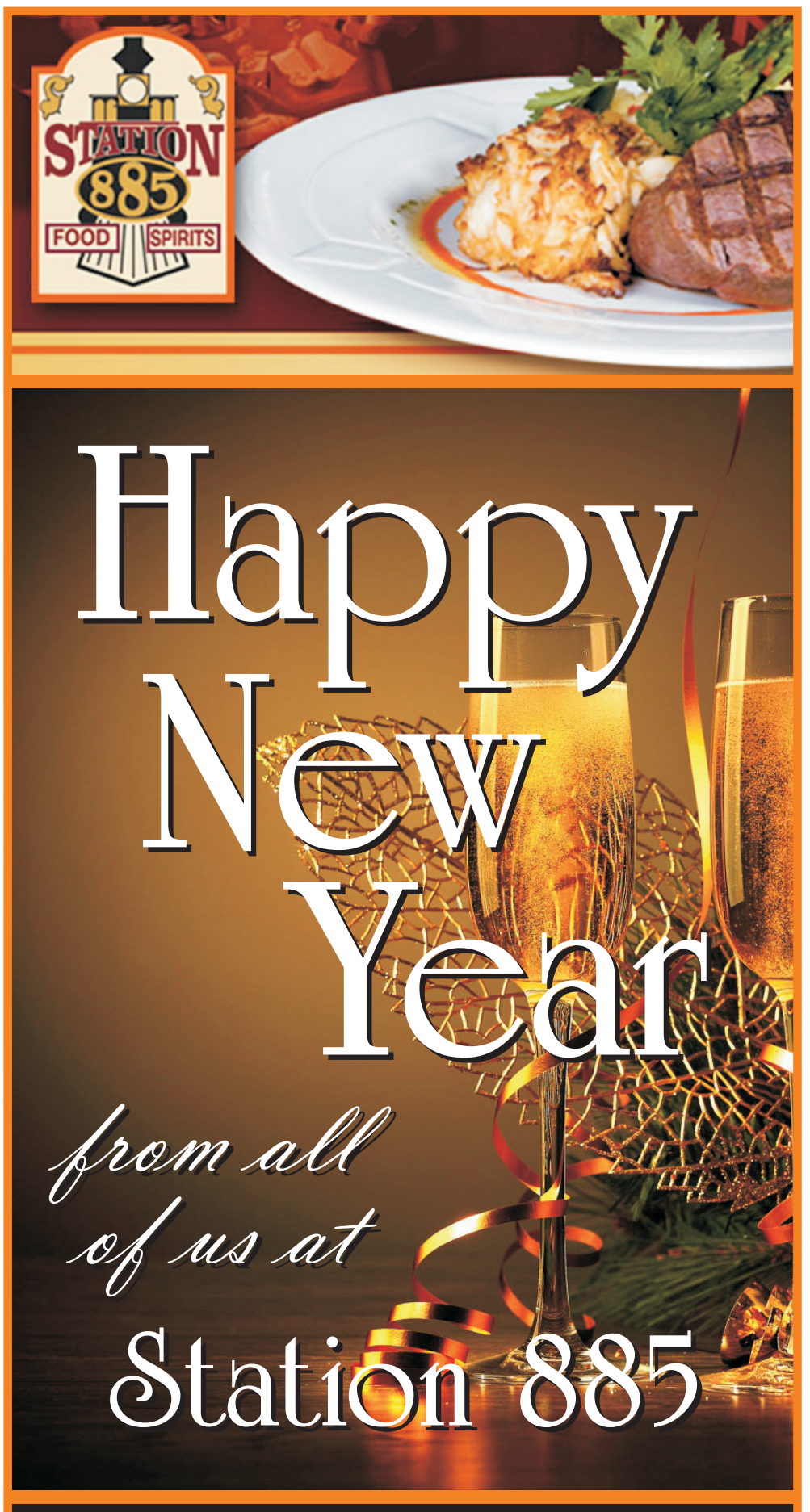

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INKSTER - CANTON

Annual Martin Luther King celebration set

Canton Township will once again honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special tribute at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

A display of artworks by area students and a punch and cookie reception will begin at the Village Theater at 6 p.m., followed by the main program at 6:30 p.m. This annual event is presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage, members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sub-Committee, and Canton Township. Admission to this special presentation is $2 and reserved seats can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

This year will feature a panel discussion by interfaith speakers including Pastor David Washington, Jr., the founding and senior pastor of Canton Christian Fellowship Church in Canton; Bill Secrest, a Zen Buddhist, recently retired as the director of the Henry Ford College Religious Studies Program; Chandru Acharya, president, South Asian American Voices For Impact, board member of Canton Interfaith Community Outreach and teacher at Canton Hindu Temple Balgokulam; Saleem Khalid, consultant to the Muslim Enrichment Project, who gives khutbahs and leads prayers throughout metropolitan Detroit, and Paul Talwar, a member of Canton Interfaith Community Outreach team and teacher at the Gurdwara, who will represent the Sikh community. These speakers will share the impact Dr. King has had on their lives and the lives of their faith communities. In addition, panelists will comment on the civil rights movement and its similarities to today, as well as their strategies for fostering an environment of peace in the community.

> *This annual event is presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage, members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sub-Committee, and Canton Township.*

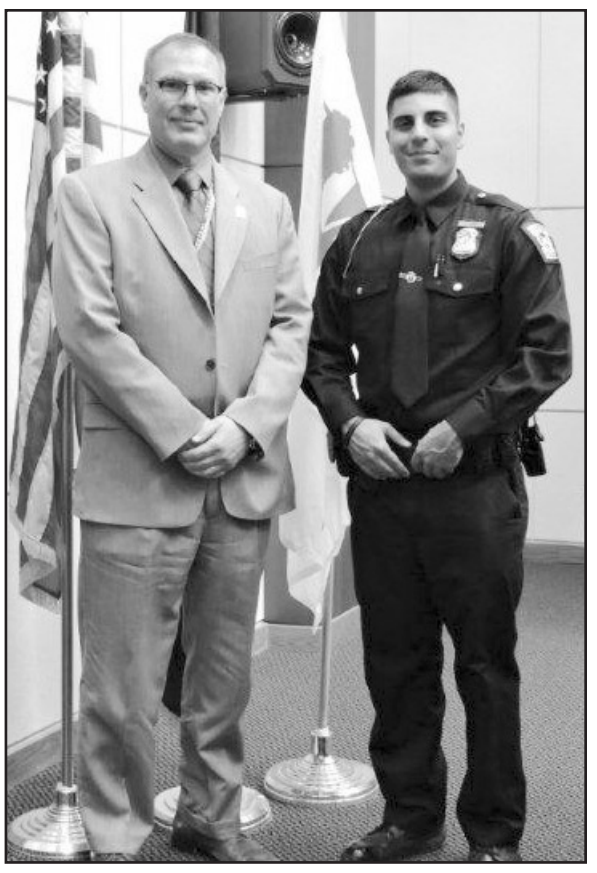
The program will also feature music by the Workman Elementary School Choir under the direction of Keri L. Mueller, and dance by Kelsey Rose and Detroit Tap Repertory.

Canton Township officials John Anthony, Terry Bennett, Phil LaJoy, Melissa McLaughlin, Steven Sneideman and Patrick Williams personally donated the scholarship and award money for winners of the art and essay contests.

Frames for the selected works were donated by IKEA Canton last year and will be used every year to feature the student work. The reception is sponsored annually by Darian and Ralynda Moore of Keller Williams Realty of Plymouth.

For more information about this special performance and the latest exhibition in the Gallery@VT, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Set to serve



Todd L. Mutchler, Canton Township director of public safety, left, welcomed new police officer, Nabil Syed, to the department last week. Syed took his Oath of Office administered by Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett. All new police officers in Canton are required to successfully complete a 16-week instructor-led field training program, prior to working on their own. This program is designed to orientate and develop recruit officers, maximizing their potential and providing them with the tools necessary to successfully make the transition into their new position as a Canton police officer.

State police probe assault

Troopers from the Michigan State Police responded to an emergency call at 8:50 p.m. Dec. 22 reporting shots fired at the Canterbury Apartments in Inkster.

The troopers, who were on patrol as part of the Secure Cities Partnership with the city, reported that they could hear arguing and loud voices outside the apartment building when they arrived at the scene.

Troopers standing outside the apartment door where the conflict was occurring could hear the arguing and someone saying, "shoot me, shoot me," reports said.

Responding to the imminent circumstances, troopers forced their way into the apartment and secured all the occupants.

A preliminary investigation indicated that at least two rounds were fired inside the apartment during the incident and the troopers recovered a weapon at the scene. No injuries were reports among the individuals involved, according to police reports.

A 29-year-old man from Inkster was taken into custody, pending a review of the incident by the office of the Wayne County Prosecutor.

Legislator host coffee hours

State Rep. Julie Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) announced today the schedule for her January coffee hours

Coffee hours in January will take place: from 9-10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at Mr. Mike's, 6047 N. Wayne Road in Westland; from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center, in Garden City and from noon until 1 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Inkster Public Library, 2005 Inkster Road in Inkster.

Residents can call Plawecki toll-free at (844) 347-8011 or email her at julieplawecki@house.mi.gov.

Happy holidays…

The annual Inkster Legends fundraising raffle to help less fortunate families in Inkster was a great success again this year, according to organizer Fred Smiley. The group was again able to help 100 Inkster families with food, clothing and toys for the holiday. A team from Kroger, above right, including Shaya Kitchen, Rita Richardson, Pamela Eads, Store Manager Julius Brown, Linda Lewis and Tyshea Hicks shopped and helped package groceries for holiday meals. Members of the delivery team included, above, top left to right, Andrew Dobbins, Jim White, Bill Calloway, Smiley, Dennis Spencer and Clint Barnett. Area college students helped shop for toys at the Meijer store in Westland organized by Larry Spencer, including Barbara J. Cooper, Brandy Jackson, Anita Jackson, Je-well Jones and Jazmin Rose. The entire effort was funded by donations and fundraising efforts throughout the year, Smiley said. "We do a lot more than just Christmas toys and groceries for the families, too," he said. "We try to do about two weeks of food for them." For details about the organization, or to volunteer for the year-long effort, contact Smiley at (734) 890-2478.

Wayne - Westland

2 city directors to be replaced

The appointments of two city department directors in Westland have been terminated by Mayor William Wild.

Wild notified Economic Development Director Lori Fodale and Parks and Recreation Director Jessica Mistak that their appointments would not be renewed when they expire Dec. 31.

Mistak was appointed to the parks and recreation position last January and is charged with overseeing three dozen parks in Wayne and Westland, the Mike Modano Ice Arena; the Concrete Jungle skate park; the H20 spray park and the farmers market.

A replacement for Mistak would be subject to approval of the members of the city council, but Wild said that no list of candidates for the job has been prepared and no successor has been named.

He offered no specific reasons for the change in his administration.

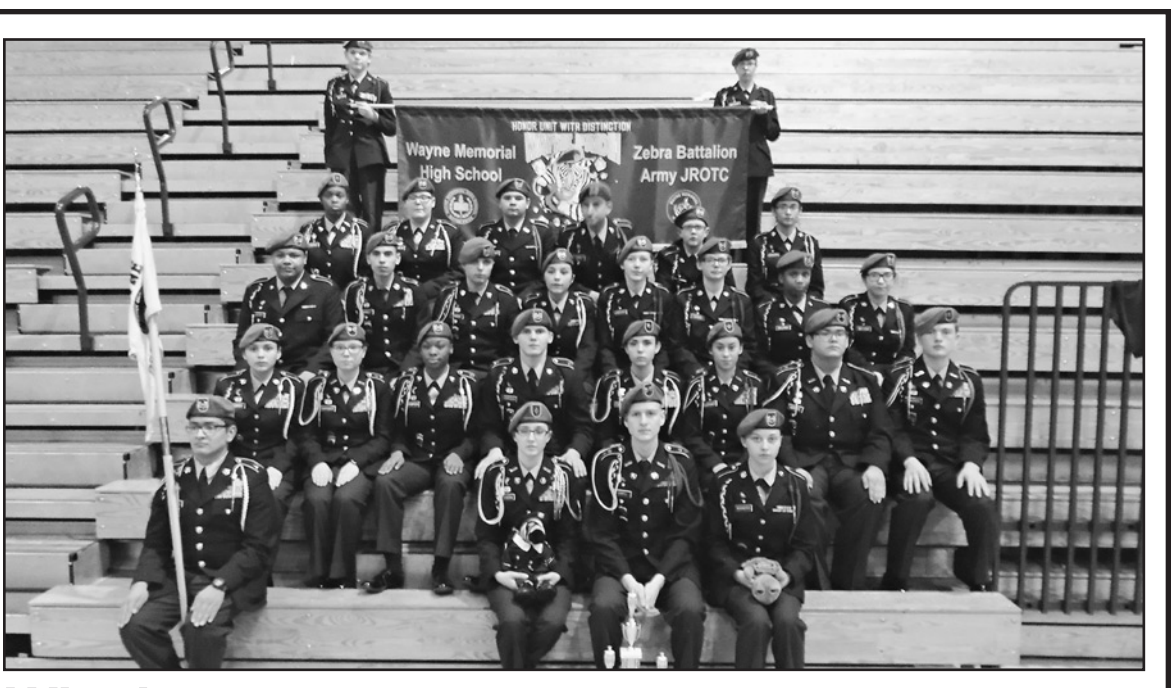
"Going into the new year, we're looking at going in a different direction with economic development," Wild said. "We're going to use this opportunity to take a look at how we can improve."

The economic development director is a mayoral appointment which is not subject to approval by city council members.

Wild said that no replacement for that position has been selected and no list of possible candidates compiled.

Wild added that Westland has seen success with economic development, but he did not want the city to become complacent.

"We've had lots of success, but moving forward I felt like I needed to find someone with a little different skill set," Wild said.



Winning ways

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Wayne Memorial High School continues to excel under the leadership of First Sgt. (Retired), Steven LaHaine with their second-place finish at the state-wide competition at Cass Technical High School in Detroit recently. The Wayne Memorial students competed in Platoon Drill, Squad Drill, Uniform Inspection, Color Guard, and First-Year Cadet Drill and the first-year cadets finished first place in their division. With these wins, the Wayne program qualified for the Brigade (regional) Championship in March and the National Championship in Louisville, KY in April.

Teens charged in theft

Two teens have been charged with larceny, receiving and concealing stolen property and credit card fraud.

The pair, Keenan McClendon, 17 and Freddie Wofford, 18, of Westland, were arraigned on the charges in 18th District Court after being arrested by Westland police, following tips from the public.

The arrests came as a result of a complaint from a resident of the 34000 block of Elmwood who reported that her car had been broken into and her credit card stolen Nov. 21.

Police used a list of locations where the stolen credit card had been used and then obtained security photographs of the suspects. The photos were released and tips from the public identified the pair, police said.

Not guilty pleas were entered for both men at their arraignments and each was released on personal bond.

Schools set planning meetings

Wayne Westland school administrators are developing a strategic plan to guide the direction of the district through the next 5 to 10 years.

That plan will include some big dreams, according to a statement from the district, and school officials are hoping to enlist the aid of local residents in shaping those dreams for the future of students in the district.

The strategic plan will be the "stimulus for continued innovation and excellence in our district, both now and into the future." The plan will be a guide to success and a chance for students, staff, parents, city officials and community members to share their dreams for the future of the district, officials said.

A series of 2-hour meetings has been scheduled through the end of January and will culminate in a presentation to members of the board of education in spring 2016.

Meetings are set for:

- Jan. 7, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting, David Hicks Elementary School, 100 Helen, in Inkster.
- Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren, in Westland.
- Jan. 14, 1 p.m., Seniors (open to all community members), Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, in Westland.
- Jan. 19, 1 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, 31250 Dorsey, in Westland.
- Jan. 19, 6 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, in Wayne.
- Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting (all parents welcome), Taft-Galloway Elementary School, 4035 Gloria, in Wayne.

Suggestions can also be submitted to http://wwcsd.net/home/strategic-planning-information/.

More information about the meetings and the process is available from Cheryl Watson or Sue Rawson at (734) 419-2010.

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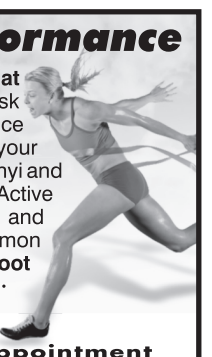

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Northville - Plymouth

Schools to hear public about health video

A video scheduled to be used in reproductive health classes for fourth-grade girls will be the subject of two public hearings for parents of Northville students.

Members of the Northville Public Schools Board of Education have scheduled the public meetings to allow parents and community members to comment on a proposed revision to the instructional DVD used in the fourth-grade reproductive health lesson for female students, according to a statement from the district office. The proposed DVD is titled Just Around the Corner for Girls - Marsh Media, 2011 and lasts for 15:07 minutes.

In fourth grade, girls have the opportunity, with written parental permission, to participate in a health lesson which includes an instructional DVD focused on menstruation, the onset of puberty, maturation of the female reproductive system and the importance of good hygiene, healthy habits and sleep, school officials said.

The proposed updated DVD has been reviewed and approved by the 17-member Health Advisory Board, comprised of parents of children attending Northville Public Schools, as well as district educators, a high school student, local clergy, and community health professionals, as required by law, they added.

"The next step in the curriculum review process is to offer parents and community members the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed DVD, prior to board of education consideration," officials said. If approved by the members of the school board, the new DVD would be used as part of the fourth grade health lesson for girls beginning this school year.

The hearings are scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 19 with a preview opportunity from 5:30-6 p.m. at the Northville Public Schools Board of Education office (Room 302), 501 West Main St.

A second hearing is planned during the regular meeting of the members of the board of education beginning at 7 p.m. Feb. 9, with a preview opportunity from 6:30-7 p.m. at Hillside Middle School Forum, 775 North Center St., Northville, MI 48167

In addition, a spokesperson added, school parents and community members may preview the proposed DVD prior to the two public hearings, at 4 p.m. Jan. 12 at Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile Road or at 9 a.m. Jan. 13 at Moraine Elementary School 46811 West Eight Mile Road.

To register for one of the DVD preview opportunities, contact Lisa Lesz at (248) 344-3526 or Leszli@northvilleschools.

Shop

FROM PAGE 1

don't conform to the law,"' Price said.

Fischer said she's had no feedback from Price after the task force meeting and that the informal meeting he agreed to have with her was cancelled right after it was arranged.

"We're making little progress," Fischer said.

Fischer, a married mother of two, owned and operated a marketing and advertising business for the past six years and became educated about the medical marijuana field while living in California a decade ago and working in a provisioning center. California was the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996 when Proposition 215, also called the Compassionate Use Act, was approved by voters. She said she is a medical marijuana cardholder using marijuana for pain control and also serves as a caregiver.

Fischer also has met with Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington on two occasions and with Township Clerk Nancy Conzelman.

"He (Tiderington) told me he couldn't make the final decision, it was up to the board and Conzelman directed me to Price," Fischer said.

Tiderington said he feels there were problems with the business plan and he believes the issue is not just medical marijuana "…but about people who are exploiting the medical marijuana laws."

"It would be improper for us to license or OK something and then have some other agency like the State Police come in," Tiderington said.

"We knew there might be controversy, so we selected a location in an industrial area. It's only 1400 square feet and we're selling strictly for medical use. I don't think the state would come in and shut my doors," Fischer said.

Fischer said Tiderington acknowledged that a marijuana provisioning center was already in operation within the township limits and told her charges were pending against the proprietors. Tiderington said there's no provision in the law to sell (marijuana) edibles, "like candies that she wants to market in her dispensary."

"Unfortunately, the law's not very clear," Fischer said of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. "There was a law passed in 2008 referencing cannabis as the flower only, not the leaf."

Tiderington and Price concur there are conflicting laws on marijuana use and sale at the federal, state and local levels.

Tiderington said most communities are taking the "same approach" as Plymouth Township.

"It's a poorly written law, that was not well thought out…the law is very unclear, but what she's proposing… it's illegal," Tiderington said.

"I believe people should be allowed to use it. I've seen it help countless people with cancer, Parkinson's Disease and chronic pain," Fischer said.

Festival

FROM PAGE 1

The annual Collegiate Ice Carving competition is presented by Genysis Credit Union where student carving competitors will compete in one of two carving competitions. The individual contest will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 and the carvers will have 3 hours to complete their entries. The team competition will begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10 when the sculptures will be completed by team of carvers. The winners will be announced and trophies presented at 1 p.m. each day.

Kroger has sponsored an all-new attraction this year with the Ice Playground, packed full of interactive ice carvings with plenty of opportunity for pictures while children play with the ice. Geitzen said this is simply a "must see" at the festival this year.

Families can also enjoy learning how to ski together at the Blue Care Network Cross-Country Skiing Zone presented by Sun and Snow. Seasoned professionals will explain the gear, help visitors suit up and set off on the cross-country skiing trail in Kellogg Park.

North American Van Lines, University Moving & Storage and the area Habitat ReStore resale outlet are teaming up with the Plymouth Ice Festival to bring the Race2ReStock donation event this year. Visit the University Moving booth in the "Hot Spot" and drop off gently-used household items or schedule a donation pickup. Receive a coupon for extra savings at your local Habitat ReStore. Take a picture with a Richard Petty Motorsports showcar and enter to win an RPM VIP XFINITY Race Day Experience for two. Visit universitymoving.com/icefest for more details, Geitzen said.

Those looking to quench their thirst will want to visit the E.G. Nick's Party Lot on Forest Avenue for cold beer, drink specials, and live music. The Party Lot has become the place to be for the evening crowd - along with an ice bar actually serving Svedka Vodka specialties.

Geitzen said the opening ceremony and ribbon cutting will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 and the DFCU sponsored Ice Garden which bathes the sculptures in Kellogg Park in light will be switched on for the first time.

Geitzen said the sponsors of the Ice Festival make the event and the attractions possible. This year those sponsors include premier sponsor Ford Motor Co., Genysis Credit Union, Blue Care Network, Fox 2 News and 93.9 The River.

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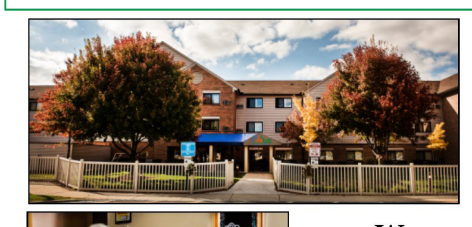
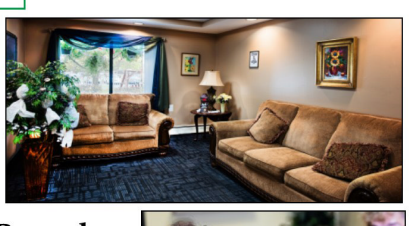

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Calendar of events

Blankets are needed

Plymouth Community United Way is holding a Blanket Drive in support of the homeless community through Jan. 15.

Blankets must be new, or handmade, and can be dropped at the Plymouth Community United Way office. The address is 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.

For more information, call Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail randi.williams@pcuw.org.

Museum seeks volunteers

The Wayne Historical Museum is seeking volunteers to help with various jobs including tour guides, display assistants and promotions.

Training will be provided and volunteers can choose their schedules and hours.

Applications are available at the museum from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. For more information, call (734) 722-0113.

Fill the Truck at festival

In addition to the ongoing collection of new blankets for the homeless and needy, the Plymouth Community United Way, Blackwell Ford and the Plymouth Ice Festival are hosting a Fill the Truck event during the Jan. 8-10 downtown ice festival.

Organizers hope to fill the bed of a new F-150 pick up truck from Blackwell Ford with the largest amount of new winter wear to be collected for those in need during the event. Organizers said they hope to set a record for donations for the collection of new or handmade hats, gloves and scarves.

The items will be give to agencies serving the homeless and low income throughout the area.

The United Way booth will be located on Penniman Avenue during the festival for donations. United Way is also hosting a free cocoa bar from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the offices, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2.

Legislator hosts coffee hours

State Rep. Julie Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) announced today the schedule for her January coffee hours. Plawecki invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents.

Coffee hours in January will take place: from 9-10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at Mr. Mike's, 6047 N. Wayne Road in Westland; from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center, in Garden City and from noon until 1 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Inkster Public Library, 2005 Inkster Road in Inkster.

Residents can call Plawecki toll-free at (844) 347-8011 or email her at julieplawecki@house.mi.gov.

Blood drive planned

The American Red Cross has planned a blood drive from 11 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. Jan. 12 at Plymouth City Hall, 201 South Main St. In Plymouth.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org with the sponsor code PCH or call (313) 549-7052.

Inspire Theatre presents lady pirates

Inspire Theater will present The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree weekends from Jan. 29 through Feb. 14 at the Westland Center for the Arts, 33455 Warren Road in Westland.

The play features the crew of the Kala Mae in their swashbuckling musical tale of Captain Bree and her lady pirates roaming the Seven Seas in search of adventure, love and laughter.

Curtain time is 7:30 on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Tickets, priced at $16 for the musical comedy, are available by calling (734)751-7057 or access InspireTheatre.com.

Daddy Daughter dances set

Come dance the night away at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department 5th annual Daddy Daughter Dance.

The dances will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and Feb. 6 at the Cultural Center Reception Room.

Music will be provided by a DJ from Dramatic Dimensions Entertainment. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Semi-formal, dressy-casual attire is recommended and the event is suitable for all ages. Advance ticket purchase is required because space is limited and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Register with the City of Plymouth Recreation Department, 525 Farmer Plymouth, www.ci.plymouth.mi.us/recreation.

For more information, call (734) 455-6620.

Eagles plan Mardi Gras

The Van Buren Eagles are planning a Mardi Gras 2016 party beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Eagles Hall, 9961 Beck Road in Van Buren Township.

The event will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music will be by Monsieur Guillame and His Zydeco Hepcats. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door, if available.

For information and reservations, call Keith and Ginger Bruder, (734) 461-2498.

Dream Creatures on exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will present "Dream Creatures," a mixed media solo exhibition featuring the works of Took Gallagher through Jan. 31, in the Gallery@VT.

Displayed works include collages, plaster cloth sculptures, and hand sewn items turn into dreamlike creatures based on the images the artist has seen emerge from the layers of paper, paint, and cloth that were used in her pieces.

Gallagher is a self-taught artist whose inspiration comes from many sources, including song lyrics, fairy tales, dreams, and misheard snippets of passing conversations, according to a prepared release.

This multi-media art exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday - Friday and during public performances at the theater. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Contract

FROM PAGE 1

of up to nine command positions as officers retire over the next few years. This agreement will have a positive impact on the city's pension and OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefit) liabilities in the future and will help us achieve our overall goal of putting the city in the position to be able to hire additional patrol officers and get more cops on street without the need for asking for a public safety millage," commented Wild.

The agreement that is effective through December 2019 reduces or eliminates the allowances that longer-serving employees receive and creates a lower tier of paid leave time. The new contract also requires all employees to contribute toward their pensions and as mandated by Michigan P.A. 152, cost sharing for health care. Pay increases are tied to the WPOAM Patrol and Dispatch contract and provide for 2 percent raises in 2015 and 2016 with no further pay increases negotiated, although a wage re-opener for the WPOAM unit will occur in 2017.

"Similar employee cost sharing and lower wages and benefits for new hires are now in effect for department directors, and the supervisory, AFSCME, patrol and fire unions," Wild continued. "Upon reaching age 65, retirees will be taken off the city's health insurance and will receive a stipend instead to purchase Medicare Advantage plans of their choosing. New hires will receive a health care savings plan as their retiree healthcare. Both changes are expected to lower the city's other post-employment benefit liability for these employees that is a future cost to the city and affects the city's bond rating," he concluded.

Kyle Dawley, WLSA president, said the membership felt the new terms and conditions in the agreement were fair.

"We are pleased to achieve a new five-year contract that we believe is fair and that addresses the needs of our members while helping the city manage its finances and ensure residents receive high quality service from the police department," he said.